

five per cent of the cost of all efforts on the part of the health authorities towards the eradication of this disease.

Now we come a little closer home. As I stated a moment ago, in 1919 there was instituted in Canada the department of national health. The core of the movement centred around the branch for the prevention of venereal disease, and it was because of the startling disclosures, certainly for no other reason, that the department of national health was set up in Canada. It is not at all necessary to go through the various steps leading up to the establishment of the institution. Suffice it to say that under the Hon. Mr. Rowell this department was set on foot in the dominion, and as a corollary to the movement there was established the dominion health council, composed of the chairmen of the provincial boards of health and, I believe, the deputy minister of national health for Canada. There was other representation as well, representation of farmers and labour and of certain women's organizations. But the substance of the dominion health council consisted of the chairmen of the provincial boards of health under the chairmanship of the deputy minister of national health.

The function of the dominion health council was to advise the dominion department of national health regarding such steps as it was thought best to take for the promotion of the health of the people of Canada. A grant of \$200,000 was placed at the disposal of the department, and, with the advice of the dominion health council, it was to be expended in different ways. The sum of \$10,000 was to go for ordinary propoganda, advertising if you like; \$10,000 was to be granted to the national council for the prevention of venereal disease, which is now the Health League of Canada. The function of the national council for the prevention of venereal disease, which organization, by the way, was composed of a number of wealthy, philanthropic and outstanding Canadians who gave freely of their time and money—much more freely than the federal government did—was to do everything possible to stamp out and prevent the spread of this ravaging disease.

This money was to be placed at the disposal of the health departments of the provinces to be spent by them dollar for dollar in the prevention of venereal disease. The provinces readily took hold—Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, British Columbia and Saskatchewan; I fancy they all did. In a very short time there was a noticeable improvement. The percentage of syphilitic cases in the hospitals all over Canada, about ten per cent—

because it became the routine practice to examine cases entering hospitals—rapidly fell, and this program was followed for several years. Unfortunately, after two or three years the grant was reduced and—I need not go into details—in 1932 it was wiped out altogether. Not only that, but the branch for the prevention of venereal disease was eliminated, discarded from the department of national health, along with some very desirable branches of the department; and although the provinces made representations from time to time and pleaded with the dominion government for the reinstatement of the whole program which had been established in 1919, the plea received very little consideration. The grant has never been restored and the provinces have never since got any assistance. One can easily realize that the activities of the provincial health departments have been materially curtailed in this respect, particularly in the poorer provinces such as those in the west and perhaps to some extent the maritimes.

I am making these remarks in connection with a proposed grant to the Health League of Canada. I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that this organization is the agent that has kept interest alive in this matter. At one time it received a grant of as much as \$20,000 from the dominion department of health. In 1933 it got nothing; in 1934 it got \$5,000, and it has received \$5,000 ever since. I will not say that I hold no brief for the league, because I do. Indeed, my remarks now are intended in the first place to stimulate the government to a realization of its responsibility so that it may make a reasonably fair grant to this organization, because no one can challenge the fact that the organization has been most useful not only in this particular branch of national health but in every other branch in connection with all forms of sickness. I should like to read a list of its activities. It publishes a quarterly magazine called *Health*—many of you no doubt have seen it—with a minimum distribution of 10,000 copies. It distributes monthly a bulletin called *Canada's Health News*, with an initial circulation of 10,000 copies. It broadcasts weekly over thirty-eight stations stretching from coast to coast. It sends out four news releases a week to every paper in Canada, some in French. It distributes cancer articles in French and English to 350 papers weekly. Recently 110 municipalities have appointed two representatives each to the council of the league. Affiliations have been promoted with a number of national associations. A national committee on venereal disease is active. A committee on periodic health examination is